

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 16, 21, and 25-30 are currently pending. Claims 5, 10, 21, and 25 have been amended; and Claims 27-30 have been added by the present amendment. The changes and additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 5, 10, 21, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, regarding questions of antecedent basis; Claims 5, 10, 21, and 25 were indicated as allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is overcome; and Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 16, and 26 were allowed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claim 5, 10, 21, and 25 are rendered moot by the present amendment to those claims. Dependent Claim 5 has been amended to address the antecedent basis question noted in the Office Action. In particular, Claim 5 has been amended to delete the "comprising one of" language as well as the second limitation recited in original Claim 5. Moreover, new Claim 27, which depends from Claim 1, has been added. New Claim 27 recites limitations analogous to the second limitation of original Claim 5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the antecedent basis questions noted in the Office Action have been overcome. Claims 10, 21, and 25, which recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 5, have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 5. Moreover, new Claims 28-30, which are analogous to new Claim 27 and depend from Claims 4, 6, and 9, respectively, have been added.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 6, and 16 (and all associated dependent claims) are in condition for formal allowance.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

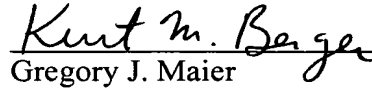
Respectfully submitted,

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